

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 20 and ending on page 11, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The system 10 is configured to rapidly deploy an airbag cushion ~~50~~ 60 into the space between a vehicle occupant 30 and an exposed surface of the vehicle 12 such as the windshield 14, dashboard 18, or steering wheel 20. The deployed cushion ~~50~~ 60 as shown in Figure 1 demonstrates one potentially desirable placement of the airbag cushion ~~50~~ 60 when deployed. During normal operation of the vehicle 12, however, the airbag cushion ~~50~~ 60 is stored in the housing 50 positioned in the roof 28 of the vehicle 12. In many applications it is aesthetically desirable to shield the overhead airbag system 10 from view. This may be done by concealing the housing 50 and its contents from view by covering them with a headliner 38. In such situations, however, the headliner 38 must be configured to be displaced to allow proper deployment of the airbag cushion 60.